

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION
Item for Information**

SUBJECT: February 2020 Faculty Governance Update

Overview of items discussed:

1. SACUA
2. Senate Assembly
3. Senate Assembly Committees
4. Faculty Senate Town Hall
5. Tri-Campus Faculty Leadership Meetings
6. Upcoming Items

1. SACUA

SACUA met on November 25, December 2, December 9, and January 27. The February 3 meeting date was reassigned to host a Faculty Senate Town Hall. SACUA did not meet over the holiday break, nor on January 20, MLK Day.

The **November 25** meeting was held with President Schlissel in Executive Session.

During the **December 2** meeting, a faculty visitor attended to discuss her experience navigating the grievance process. To address Senate Assembly attendance concerns, SACUA agreed to shorten the time for Senate Assembly meetings by 15 minutes and to start fifteen minutes earlier to maximize participation and early departure for members with childcare concerns. For the **December 9** meeting Acting Provost Dittmar discussed the budget process on the Ann Arbor campus. SACUA discussed plans that are underway to engage students and faculty.

On **January 27** in Executive Session, President Schlissel discussed the expected process for appointing an acting and, if necessary, an interim provost. An LSA department chair visited to share information about ramifications for advisors and lecturers who inappropriately accessed student records.

The **February 3** SACUA meeting was replaced with a Faculty Senate Town Hall to provide an additional opportunity for faculty to discuss recommended revisions to Bylaws 5.09 and 5.10 by the Faculty Working Group. Representatives from the Working Group attended the meeting and addressed questions, and attendance was robust.

2. SENATE ASSEMBLY

Senate Assembly met on December 16 and January 13.

On **December 16**, Senate Assembly discussed and approved a [Resolution](#) submitted by the Senate Assembly Committee on Civil Rights and Liberties (CCRL) to revise the Sexual Misconduct Umbrella Policy to rescind the Interim Policy pertaining to students, which would prevent direct cross-examination of claimants by respondents. Senate Assembly members had roundtable discussions regarding OIE processes, grievance processes, and concerns about open access in publishing, with the goal of sharing ideas and concerns across units.

On **January 13** Dr. MaryJo Banasik, Director of the Faculty Senate Office, talked about central faculty governance and how faculty can get engaged, and Professor Kentaro Toyama, a Senate Assembly member and Chair of the Academic Affairs Advisory Committee (AAAC), gave an update on AAAC's activities. Professor Gregory Laurence from Flint gave an update on the Flint campus. The Faculty Ombuds Professors Michèle Hannoosh and Robert Ortega visited to tell Senate Assembly members about their ombuds role and how they support faculty.

3. SENATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

Senate Assembly committees have continued to meet regularly with Executive Officers. Meeting agendas are available on the Faculty Senate website. The following committees recently met:

Building, Facilities and Infrastructure	December 4, January 28
Communications Advisory Committee	December 18, January 28
Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty	December 4, January 31
Development Advisory Committee	January 29
Financial Affairs Advisory Committee	December 13, February 7
Government Relations Advisory Committee	December 6
Medical Affairs Advisory Committee	December 18, January 15
Research Policies Committee	December 20, January 31
Student Relations Advisory Committee	December 13, January 24
Tenure, Promotions, and Professional Development Committee	January 7 & 24
Tri-Campus Committee	December 16, January 13

4. FACULTY SENATE TOWN HALL

A Faculty Senate Town Hall was convened on February 3, 2020. Members from the Working Group lead a presentation of their emerging recommendations, which are expected to be shared with the Regents in late February or March. This Town Hall was a two-way conversation among the Faculty Working Group who asked specific questions for the group to consider, and Senate members who offered support, comments, and critiques of various aspects under development. The Faculty Senate Town Hall was the fifth Town Hall for the Faculty Working Group, and Senate members were pleased to note the updates and revisions that the Working Group had already made based on feedback received in the prior four meetings. SACUA commends the efforts of the Faculty Working Group, which has been working diligently under tight time constraints. We are encouraged by the faculty-driven process used to review Regents' Bylaw 5.09, which recognizes the key role that faculty have in granting and removing tenure.

5. TRI-CAMPUS FACULTY GOVERNANCE LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

Continuing our practice from last year, faculty governance leadership (including chairs, vice chairs, and immediate past chairs) for the faculty senates of the Ann Arbor, Flint, and Dearborn campuses met in Ann Arbor for an informal lunch and information sharing on November 22. Another gathering will be held in Dearborn in March.

6. UPCOMING ITEMS

SACUA is currently soliciting nominations for the following academic year, for three SACUA positions and for next year's Faculty Senate Committee membership. Related to this effort, SACUA is proposing some committee realignments to address changes in institutional context. Proposed committees would give more regular Faculty Senate connections with Academic Human Resources and the Office of Institutional Equity to improve two-way communications for processes related to faculty. Changes are pending Senate Assembly approval at the February 13 meeting.

Submitted: February 2020



Joy Beatty, SACUA Chair